



Bulletin

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources

Winter 2009

Looking Back on 2008:

Hill Country Youth Ranch and Vinson & Elkins LLP

"It is a great feeling to help someone, particularly a child. HCYR has become a part of my life," wrote **Jay Kelley**, a volunteer attorney from **Vinson & Elkins LLP**. The Hill Country Youth



Jay Kelley

Ranch provides residential treatment, foster care, and a charter school for abused and abandoned children aged 6-18. The Ranch applied for a community counsel partnership back in 2004 and was referred to Jay Kelley. Five years later, this partnership is still going strong. This partnership has dealt with a multitude of problems ranging from assistance with corporate restructuring, to advice regarding a law suit, to negotiating with the

Texas Education Agency. Gary Priour, the Ranch's executive director, wrote how Kelley "has become a consultant on any number of matters, and is always available by email or telephone, or if necessary in person, to plan strategies, write or edit documents, or implement actions to improve or protect the status of Hill Country Youth Ranch. We are very grateful that such a remarkable professional as Jay Kelley found his way to us."

Pump Project Art Complex and Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C.

The Pump Project Art Complex is an Austin nonprofit, providing low-income artists with the studio space. They came to Texas C-BAR in early 2008 asking for assistance establishing a new commercial lease. **David Spiller, Cliff Ernst, and Peter Cesaro** of **Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C.** worked together with the nonprofit to first draft a comprehensive commercial lease with multiple exhibits. This original referral went so well that the nonprofit then requested additional assistance to draft a license agreement with respect to the art studio's membership rules and the members' use and occupancy of the studio space and common space. David Spiller summed up the partnership: "It was a delight working with a visual arts non-profit—

one of my special interests is drawing and painting. The client was very responsive, motivated and informed. The legal issues were substantive and interesting."

Corporate Counsel Partnership: BiG Austin

In 2007, Texas C-BAR piloted the Corporate Counsel Partnership (CCP) program. This project connected nonprofits with multiple legal needs with two sets of attorneys, one from a corporate legal department and one from a law firm. In addition to benefiting the nonprofit, these partnerships have also been a benefit to the attorneys involved, allowing them to connect and work with colleagues they may not otherwise have ever met. BiG Austin, a nonprofit focused on helping low-income microentrepreneurs, is one of our partners for the Legal Assistance to Microenterprises Project (LAMP), frequently sponsoring workshops, referring clients to us, and receiving referrals of clients from us. In 2008, they entered into a CCP with **Dell Inc** and **Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, PC**. Since then, they have received advice and assistance on a variety of matters ranging from training staff regarding lending and bankruptcy to counsel and advice regarding web-based portals for service. **Geoffrey Brow** of Dell recently wrote that "we are assisting BiG Austin with their contracts and are soon going to start teaching a big skills class for their clients."

Mustard Seed Ministries and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Mustard Seed Ministries began as a program of Cedar Street Methodist Church teaching computer skills to adults and youth alike in Tyler, Texas. As it developed, it branched out to also refurbish computers and provide them to impoverished students and families, recycling as much as possible. When the program became large enough to be a separate entity, they approached Texas C-BAR for assistance which was provided by volunteer attorneys **Seth Kaufman, Kevin Rice, and Gerald**

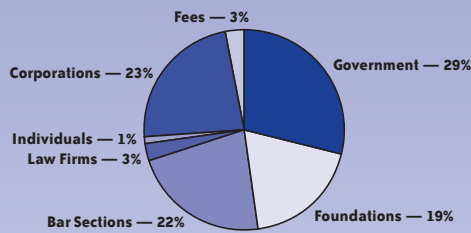


Gerald Buechler

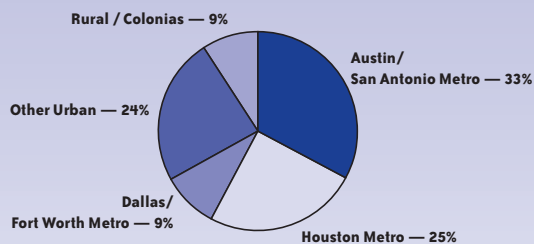
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2008 Financial Profile

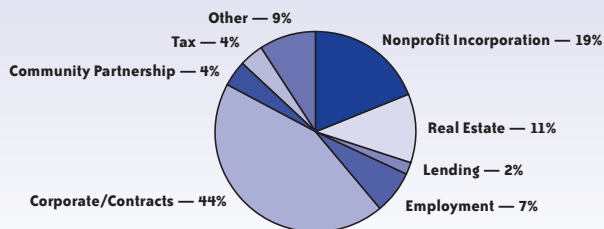
Income Distribution



Geographic Distribution of Matters Referred



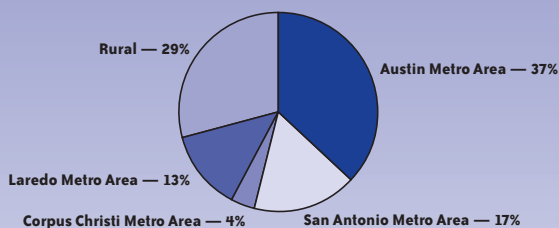
Types of Legal Matters Referred



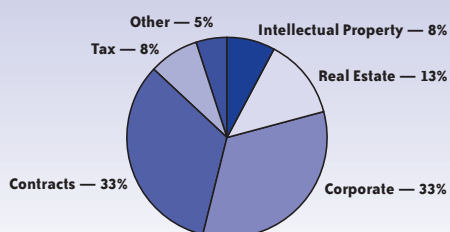
Texas C-BAR at a Glance Year Totals

- Leveraged **over \$1.8 million** in volunteer attorney resources for nonprofits and microentrepreneurs.
- **Assisted 190 nonprofit organizations** across Texas served through **273** new and existing pro bono referrals.
- Provided transactional pro bono opportunities to **133 attorney volunteers** recruited from **39** law firms and corporate counsel departments.
- **Delivered 22 legal resource workshops** delivered to more than **800** nonprofit managers, board members, and attorneys across Texas.
- **Published**
Building Blocks Of Community Development: Legal Issues
Affecting Start-Up Nonprofit Child Care Centers
Street Smart Dallas: Know Your Rights!
Street Smart Houston: Know Your Rights!
Street Smart San Antonio: Know Your Rights!
Zoning In Austin: A Guide For Individuals, Small Businesses, And Nonprofits

LAMP: Current Geographic Distribution of Cases



LAMP: Current Open Case Matters



LAMP at a Glance Year Totals

- **Assisted 85 microentrepreneurs** across Texas served through **12** new pro bono referrals, **40** in-house service, and **33** brief services and individual consultations.
- **Delivered 18 legal workshops** delivered to more than **185** microentrepreneurs.
- **Delivered 8 legal workshops** delivered to more than **79** technical assistance providers.

Buechler of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. In October 2008, Mustard Seed Ministries was granted 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the IRS. Pastor Karen Jones was delighted by the assistance. She wrote, "Our Texas C-BAR attorney was not only a true professional, but he also went the extra mile to anticipate our needs in the future. He was super! Thanks for all your organization's help." Gerald Buechler of Akin Gump was more succinct in his summation of the work: "Good work with good people."

Texas C-BAR's 2008 Supporters:

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& Natural Resources Law Section
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and Trust Law Section

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Builders of Hope CDC
Chris Beasley
Brandy Copley
Diane Couchman
Louisa Hoberman
Anna Maria Mendez
Charles Szalkowski
Gail Weatherby

Thank
You!

Legal Resources Library Updates in 2008

The Legal Resource Library at www.texasbar.org/legal_library/toc.php has been updated with:

Street Smart Dallas: Know Your Rights!, **Street Smart Houston: Know Your Rights!**, and **Street Smart San Antonio: Know Your Rights!**, are guides to the legal rights, responsibilities and resources of the homeless populations in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. Special thanks to ExxonMobil for providing funding for Houston and Dallas, and to NuStar for providing funding for San Antonio.

Texas C-BAR Welcomes New and Returning Attorney Volunteers

From 12/10/08 – 3/10/09

Karen Bartoletti, *Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C.*
Jennifer Boatwright, *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
Kelly Bohne, *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
Geoffrey Brow, *Dell Inc.*
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Jeff Hollis, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Ellyn Josef, *Vinson & Elkins LLP*
Scott Kearns, *Dell Inc.*
Jay Kelley, *Vinson & Elkins LLP*
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Paul Martin, *State Farm Insurance*
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Angela Stockbridge, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Alison Sulentic, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Harrison Tucker, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Philip Weller, *DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary LLP*

University of Texas School of Law Community Development Clinic

Heather Way, *Supervising Attorney*
Anastasia Cunningham-Thomas, *Advanced Student Attorney*
Courtney Davis, *Advanced Student Attorney*
Robin Angela Brem, *Student Attorney*
Robert Seth Daniel, *Student Attorney*
Rebecca Ann H. Diffen, *Student Attorney*
Pablo Husayn Nossa, *Student Attorney*
David Ortigoza, *Student Attorney*
Deanna E. Whitaker, *Student Attorney*



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About Texas C-BAR

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (Texas C-BAR) is a statewide business pro bono project that provides nonprofits with the legal tools they need to enhance the quality of life in Texas communities. Legal Assistance Microenterprises Project (LAMP) provides legal assistance to very small business owners. As a special project of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Texas C-BAR currently partners with law firms and corporations throughout Texas to help nonprofits better the lives of thousands of low-income families throughout the state. For more information about Texas C-BAR, LAMP, or to participate in our pro bono program, please contact Texas C-BAR.

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